

THE MEREDITH EAGLE.

MEREDITH, N. H., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1883.

VOL. IV.

OUR NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS TO SAY ABOUT THE STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

An Over-Saving Program.—What to Do with the Surplus Funds.—The Peopling of the Country.—The Civil Service—Presidential Succession, Etc., Etc.

In his message to Congress, President Arthur says:—At the threshold of your deliberations, I congratulate you on the favorable aspects of the domestic and foreign affairs of this Government. Our relations with either countries continue to be upon a friendly footing. During the year there have been peaceful and proclaimed commercial and commercial treaties with several nations, with which such treaties did not heretofore exist.

THE SURPLUS REVENUE.

If the revenue for the fiscal year which will end on June 30, 1883, be estimated upon the basis of existing laws, the Secretary is of opinion that for that year the receipts will exceed \$800,000,000. The surplus, however, will be considerably less, including the amount devoted to the sinking fund.

In his last annual message I called attention to the necessity of protecting by suitable legislation the forests situated upon the public domain. In many portions of the West the pursuit of general agriculture only made practicable by resort to irrigation, while successful irrigation is almost impossible without the aid afforded by forests in contributing to the regularity and constancy of the supply of water.

AMERICAN FOREST IN FRANCE.

The legislation of France against the importation of unprepared wine products from the United States has been repealed. That result is due no less to the friendly representations of this Government than to a growing conviction in France that the restriction was not demanded by any real danger to health.

Germany still prohibits the introduction of all wine products from America.

I extended to the Imperial Government a proposal to direct that to be sent to the United States to induce either the use of these products was dangerous to health. This invitation was declined. I have believed it of such importance, however, that the exact facts should be ascertained and promulgated that I have appointed a competent Commission to make a thorough investigation of the subject.

Its members have shown their public spirit by accepting their trust without fee or compensation, but I trust that Congress will, in its annual and supplemental resolutions also provide a sufficient motive for providing at least for reimbursement of such expenses as they may necessarily incur.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

At the instance of the Commissioner of Agriculture a convention of those interested in the cattle industry of the country was lately held at Chicago. The prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia and other contagious diseases of animals was one of the chief topics of discussion. A Committee of the Commission will invite your cooperation in investigating the causes of these diseases and providing methods for their prevention and cure.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The annual report of the Civil Service Commission, which will soon be submitted to Congress, will doubtless afford the means of a more definite judgment, than I am now prepared to express as to the merits of the new system. I am persuaded that its effects have thus far proved beneficial. Its practical methods appear to be adequate for the ends proposed, and there has been no serious difficulty in carrying them into effect. Since the 1st of July last, no amount, so far as I am aware, has been appointed to the public service in the classified portions thereof at any of the departments, or at any of the post-offices and customs districts above named, except those certified by the Commission to be the most competent on the basis of examinations held in conformity to the rules.

THE NATIONAL CURRENCY.

Immediately associated with the financial subject discussed is the important question, What legislation is needed regarding the national currency?

The aggregate amount of bonds now on deposit in the Treasury to support the national bank circulation is about \$35,000,000. Nearly \$200,000,000 of this amount consists of three per cent, which, as already stated, are payable at the pleasure of the Government, and are held in trust, and with the last four years, unless, meantime, the surplus revenues shall be diminished.

The probable effect of such an extensive retirement of the securities which are the basis of the national bank circulation would be such a contraction of the volume of the currency as to produce grave commercial embarrassments.

How great this danger be obviated? The most effective and safe, and which, after all, is the easiest practicable opportunity I shall heartily approve, has already been indicated. If the revenues of the next four years shall be kept substantially commensurate with the expenses, the volume of circulation will not be likely to suffer any material diminution.

But if, on the other hand, there shall be great delay in reducing taxation, it will become the chief effort to avert fate, and other forms of currency in place of the national bank notes, or to make important changes in the law by which their circulation is now controlled.

In my judgment the latter course is far preferable. I commend to your attention the very interesting and thoughtful suggestions upon this subject which appear in the Secretary's report.

The objections which he urges against the acceptance of the securities which are the basis of the national bank circulation may arise when longer delay will be impossible, and any determination, albeit the wisest, had revealed itself to me.

I trembled, and forgot the precious burden in my hands; it dropped to the ground and was shattered to pieces.

How shall I describe the rector's rage?

She who had the angel-voice—her name—came out and I saw her. I for got the disaster, and stood speechless gazing at her face.

"Youark awurdly soundur! look at your work. Thirty pounds! Fifty pounds! An invizable treasure gone irreparably in a moment. Why don't you speak? Why did you drop it?"

"Drop it," I said, waking up. "Drop what?" And then it flushed upon me again, and I stammered out, "She sang!"

"And if she did sing, was there any occasion to drop my beautiful vase, you doubly stupid blockhead? There, go out of the house, do, before you do any further mischief, and tell your father to horsewhip you for a stupid fool."

My father heard of my misfortune, and laid the strap across my shoulders without hesitation, for in my young days boys were boys till eighteen or nineteen years old. I bore it patiently, uncomplainingly.

"What is he fit for?" everyone would ask, and no one could answer, not even myself.

I wandered about the rector's residence in Lawrence, Mass., a little girl came to the door and cried: "Monkey, Monkey, come into the house!" The dude was hopping mad, and was just about to ring the bell and demand apologies of the family, when he saw that the girl was calling a little dog in the street. He can't get over his own mistake, though.

FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION.

I have written to the Secretary of the interior, state of illiteracy in certain portions of the country, and again submitted for the consideration of Congress whether some federal aid should be ex-

pended.

FAILURE should be the stepping-stone to success.

CHESTNUT EYE.

God bless the little stockings
All over the land to night,
Ming in the choicest corners,
In a glow of crimson light.

The tiny scarlet stocking,
With a hole in the heel and toe,
Wore by wonderful journeys
The darlings have had to go.

And heaven pity the children,
Wherever their home may be,
Wake at the first gray dawning,
An empty stocking to see.

Left is the faith of childhood
Hanging against the wall,
Just where the dazzling glory
Of Santa's light will fall!

Alas! alas! my awkwardness again
Banished me. She met me one evening
in the garden, as I was coming along the
path, with my cane full of water, and
spoke to me, and said:

"You're the boy that broke the vase,
aren't you?"

"I did not, could not, reply; my
strength forsook me. I dropped my
cane on the ground, where they upset
and flooded away in a moment some
seeds on which the rector set most
especial store.

"How awkward, to be sure!" she ex-
claimed. "And how angry uncle will be."

"I turned and fled, and from that time
the rectory gate was closed against me.

One Sunday she sang as I had never
yet heard her, not loudly, but so ten-
derly, so lovingly; I knew the change
had come—she loved; it thrilled in her
voice; and at the evening service he was
there. I saw him. A soldier, I knew
by his bearing, with crag, hard, gray
eyes; and she sang, I knew it. I de-
tected a tremble and gratitude in the
notes. I felt she was to suffer, as I had
suffered; not that I sang. I had no
voice. A harsh, guttural sound was all
I could give utterance to. I could
whistle like a bird, and often and often
have I lain for hours in the shade of a
tree and joined the concert in the rain!

On the empty shores and stockings,
Forever laid aside,

Oh, the tangled, broken shoe-string
That will nevermore be tied!

Oh, the little graves at the mercy
Of the cold December rain!

Oh, the fest in their snow-white sandals
That can never trip again!

But happier they who slumber,
With marble at foot and head,
Than the child who has no shelter,
No raiment, nor food, nor bed.

Yes! have helped the living!
Children of want and pain,
Knowing no fold nor pasture—
Out-to-night in the rain!

It came to an end at last, and with
the last triumphant note I fell forward
on the deck in a swoon.

When I recovered, I found myself at
home in my own room, with the rector,
the doctor and my parents there, and
heard the doctor say:

"I told you he would, dear madam; I
knew he would."

"Thank God!" murmured my mother.

"My dear boy, how we have feared for
you!"

What a difference! I was comred and
made much of. "Genius!" and "Very
clever!" and "Delightful talent!" such
were the expressions I now heard, in-
stead of "stupid!" "awkward!" and "not
fit for anything!"

My father bought a fine instrument,
and I was the hero of the village for
months.

It was some days after that Christmas
that I ventured to ask about the rector's
niece.

"My dear boy," said my mother;

"the like was never heard. We saw you
there and wondered what you were doing;

but as soon as we saw you with the bow,
we knew you must be the person who
had been so much talk about; and then
when the anthem came, and we all left
singing and they all left off playing,
and only you and Miss Cecilia kept on,
we were all in tears. I saw even the rector
crying; and, poor girl, she seemed as if
she was to suffer, as I had suffered; not
that I sang. I had no voice.

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I could give utterance to. I could
whistle like a bird, and often and often
have I lain for hours in the shade of a
tree and joined the concert in the rain!

One day I was whistling, when I was
tapped on the shoulder by an old man,
the cobbler of the next parish.

"Sam, where did you learn that?"

"Learn what?"

"That tune."

"At church."

"You've a good ear, Sam."

"I've nothing else good, but I can
whistle anything."

"Can you whistle me the Morning
Hymn?"

"I did so."

"Good; very good. Know anything
of music, Sam?"

"Nothing."

"Like to?"

"I'd give all I have in the world to
be able to play anything. My soul's
full of music. I can't sing a note, but
I could play anything if I was taught."

"So you shall, Sam, my boy. Come
home with me. Carry these skins, and
you shall begin at once."

I went home with him, and found
that he was one of the players in the
choir of his parish, his instrument being
the violin.

"I'll be fit for nothing," said my
father; "an awkward booby who holds
his awl and cuts his food with his left
hand."

So said my father, and so, alas! I
felt. I was awkward. I was fifteen; thick-
set, strong, but terribly clumsy.

I could not make a collar, nor sew a
pair of blinder, nor stuff a saddle, nor
do anything that I ought to be able to
do. My fingers seemed to have no me-
chanical feeling in them. I was awk-
ward, and I knew it, and all knew it.

"I don't know what he's fit for," said
my father to the rector of the parish.

"I've set him to carpentering, and he's
done his finger nearly off with an ax;"

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"I'll give all I have in the world to
be able to play anything. My soul

NEWS OF THE DAY

GENERAL NEWS.

Thursday afternoon the boiler of the steamship at Branchville, Va., owned by Joyner, Whitehead & Cooke, exploded, wrecking the building and scalding six colored men, four of them fatally. Messrs. Whitehead and Cooke were very badly hurt, having bones broken and their bodies cut and burned. The mill was a new one, and commenced work only that morning.

Peterboro, N. C., is now suffering from an epidemic of scarlet fever.

The burning of a Pullman car on a moving train of the Hudson River Railroad is one of the most singular accidents recorded. Two passengers were injured.

James M. Underwood was hanged at Dardanelle, Ark., for the murder of Robert J. Pendleton. He admitted the kill, but declared he was impelled to the crime by the wife of the victim.

For giving a name to a postal money order a sentence of two years' imprisonment was passed in Philadelphia, Pa.

A broken yawl boat, believed to have belonged to the pilot boat Columbia, which was run down by the steamer Alaska in New York harbor, has been picked up at sea. About \$4,000 has been raised for the families of the lost pilots.

At St. John's, N. F., intelligence has been received of a melancholy accident at Southwest Arm, involving a complete household wreck. The only particulars at hand are as follows: Mr. John W. Wirtz, with his family, were proceeding in a skiff from the Southwest Arm of Notre Dame Bay to Little Bay, when a squall struck the little craft, capsized her and buried her living freight in a watery tomb.

The students who left the National College of Pharmacy, at Washington, D. C., on account of the stimulation of a colored man have returned.

It is agreed by the pilots that the boat run down and lost at sea was the Columbia, No. 8, of New York. Every other vessel in the service has been accounted for. She had five pilots and a crew of five men on board.

Canada's population has increased by immigration during the present year a little over one hundred thousand.

Finding it impossible to obtain a jury for the trial of James Natti for killing Eddie, the venue was changed from Uniontown to Pittsburgh.

—Some of the Pennsylvania Senators have relented and voted that they received for eleven days of the extra session, when nothing was done.

Evidence taken by the Fire Marshal indicates that the watchman of the Windsor Theatre, which was burned lately in New York city, was intentionally set on fire. The fire originated in the theatre's office, located in the rear of the place of business, and was caused by some one who had been drinking.

In New York city William Belden, the millionaire, and his family, had a narrow escape from a terrible fire on Sunday night. The house is heated by steam, and a drainage engineer went to sleep and allowed the pressure to run up to seventy pounds, when forty was supposed to be the limit.

A pilot boat with white yaws, while preparing to put a pilot on the steamer Alaska coming into New York harbor, was run down by that steamer and sank. All on board the pilot boat were lost. Passengers charge the officers of the Alaska with a want of prompt action in stopping a steamer.

Merchandise and samples of merchandise can now be sent by mail at the rate of one cent for each ounce, under a decree of the Postmaster-General.

Twenty-nine petitions have been presented to the new Court of Appeals by citizens by complaint in their various prisons.

A merchant who became bankrupt on Saturday at Medina, Ala., died on Monday of congestion of the brain.

The murderer, Salmon, has confessed his guilt, and tells how and why he committed the terrible triple murder of Leominster, N. H.

A shot from Halifax, N. S., says: When the government steamer Newfield was towing a new ship, next Digby Sunday night, the latter parted and the latter vessel drove ashore to the westward of Point Prim Light. On board of her were Captain Brown, of the Newfield, and nine others, only two of whom (James Dame and James Bell) were saved.

A vessel which ran down and sank a schooner at sea left the wrecked sailors to shift for themselves. They were picked up by another craft.

The report of Collector Roberton, of the port of New York, for November, shows a falling off of over \$800,000 in receipts for imports, by a comparison with November, 1882.

The right of membership in the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Evangelists, in Philadelphia, Pa., is to be a subject of judicial investigation. High churchmen complain that the low church officers are crowding them out.

Mr. Carlile, of Kentucky, was nominated by Speaker for the Democratic nomination for the 18th voted. Mr. Standard 50, and Mr. Cox 20. In the Republican caucus Mr. Elyer received 44 and Mr. Robinson 15 votes.

For twelve months ending October 31, 1883, the excess in value of our exports over imports reached \$122,410,444, the total of exports being \$512,485,543, and exceeding the preceding twelve months by \$72,389,070.

Four ministers and two ladies sailed from Boston for Africa, as missionaries among the Veys and Mandingoes of the West Coast.

In consequence of the quarrel between the different cigar makers' unions in Chicago there is a general lockout against the members of international Union No. 14.

One thousand five hundred gold pieces of the peso of 1869 have been discovered in circulation.

The strike among the old-field printers in Philadelphia has resulted in a general lockout.

The will of Mrs. C. H. Northup, of Hartford, contains charitable bequests amounting to \$125,000.

Richard Wagner, a Russian Poet, at one time a designer at Dallmeyer, Mass., went to visit his mother in Poland. On reaching Poland he was immediately seized by the Russian authorities and sent in exile to Siberia for having deserted some years ago from the military.

A fire in Chicago destroyed the Penwell block, the largest business building in the city, bounded by Adams, Market, Monroe streets and the river. A panic ensued among the girls employed in the building, and two were killed by throwing themselves into the sidewalk. The Evening Journal building was also destroyed with serious loss.

The official vote of Massachusetts for Governor was 113,557, or 55,079 more than in 1872. Robinson received 160,977, and Butler 150,226, giving Robinson a plurality of 9,864. This gave Robinson 30,005 more than Bishop received last year, while Butler received 15,202 over his vote in 1882.

A fire in the upper story of the Masonic Temple in New York city, destroyed about \$40,000 worth of furniture and damaged the building \$50,000.

Four young persons were drowned in Virginia the other day while returning from a visit to a sick friend, their boat capsized.

The services in the Boston church in which Rev. Mr. Culverwell dropped dead on Thanksgiving Day brought dead there also.

Harrad has 972 students.

At half-past four o'clock Monday fire broke out on the first floor of No. 4 Central Park Terrace, in New York city, the flames rapidly spreading, and three little children were burned to death.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Secretary Chandler in his annual report says the three new steel was ready now building will be completed about January 1, 1884. The Secretary of the Treasury reports that the ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, were \$1,000,000.

Internal revenue, \$1,000,000.

Tax on corporation and deposits, \$1,000,000.

Profits on postage, telegraph, telephones, and money, \$1,000,000.

Customs, \$1,000,000.

Postage, letters, postals, and funds, \$1,000,000.

Revenue, \$1,000,000.

Deposits of interest by Pacific Mail, \$1,000,000.

Bank fees for Pacific railway companies, \$1,000,000.

Deposits by individuals for carrying public funds, \$1,000,000.

Profits on sale of government bonds, \$1,000,000.

Friends of sailors, \$1,000,000.

Postage on money orders, \$1,000,000.